

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0017] to read, as follows.

--[0017] The figure [[Fig. 1]] is an overall configuration diagram illustrating an example of the image formation apparatus according to the present invention.--

Please amend paragraph [0020] to read, as follows.

--[0020] The image formation method may further comprises ~~comprise~~ a step for semi-fixing a toner image between the first and second steps. The term "semi-fixing" here refers to fixing to a degree at least where the toner image formed on the recording medium is not affected by vibrations or movement or air while being transported. More preferably, the semi-fixing is performed to a degree where the toner image does not run or bleed upon ink droplets being provided by the ink jet image formation means downstream. On the other hand, fixing wherein the toner powder completely fuses due to thermal fusing and is fixed to the recording medium, is undesirable. That is, in the event that complete fixing is performed, this impedes absorption of the ink upon the ink droplets being applied by the ink jet image formation means downstream, and also leads to ink on the surface of one sheet smearing onto the back side of another sheet upon the recording medium being discharged, since drying of the ink is impeded due to insufficient absorption by the recording medium. Also, in the event of not fixing at all, the toner image may run or bleed upon ink droplets being provided by the ink jet image formation means downstream as mentioned above.--

Please amend paragraphs [0033] and [0034] to read, as follows.

--[0033] The image formation apparatus shown in the figure [[Fig. 1]] has multiple image formation means which each use different image formation methods, and forms an image on the recording medium P by a series of image formation steps by the image formation means. Note that the image formation apparatus according to the present invention is capable of both ink jet recording and electrophotography recording, i.e., capable of synthesized or multiplex recording as to the same recording medium. Here, recording wherein the ink image region of the ink jet recording and the toner image region of the electrophotography recording do not overlap will be referred to as "synthesized recording", and recording wherein the ink image region of the ink jet recording and the toner image region of the electrophotography recording overlap will be referred to as "multiplex recording".

[0034] First, to describe the general configuration of the overall image formation apparatus, this apparatus main unit M comprises an electrophotography image formation means I serving as first image formation means disposed upstream in the image formation apparatus (the portion indicated by the dotted line to the right side in the figure, Fig. 1); and an ink jet image formation means II serving as second image formation means disposed downstream in the image formation apparatus (the portion indicated by the dotted line to the left side in the figure, Fig. 1). The terms "upstream" and "downstream" in the apparatus main unit M refer to the direction of transportation of the recording medium P in the series of image formation steps (the direction of the arrow K); in the figure, [[Fig. 1,]] the right side is the upstream side and the left side is the downstream side.--